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## THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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### THE COMING YEAR.

"All bright with the fields of the harvest to-day,  
Time moves to its destinies splendid."

With the opening of the New Year we send our most cordial greetings to all our readers and to all the friends of peace everywhere.

The past year has been one of signal triumph for our cause, in ways well known to all our coworkers. It has been for the most part a year of peace between the nations, such wars as have occurred being chiefly due to revolutionary disturbances and being confined to very narrow limits. For this let us be devoutly thankful. But more thankful still we should be for the changed public sentiment which has made it very difficult for any war to break out or, having begun, to continue long. The "great war in Europe" which has been for more than twenty years prophesied and yet has failed to come is now less likely than ever to satisfy the corrupt wishes of the lovers of the startling. There are peace movements on foot among the people and the statesmen of Europe that are more powerful than monstrous guns and huge standing armies, and any war that may break out will have to conquer a hitherto unknown resistance.

Our look is forward, not backward; one of hope and faith, not of doubt and despair. We are not blind to the threatenings of the powers of evil in the solidity of their present organization, nor to the long hard struggle yet to be had with them, but the future is God's, not the devil's. Under the regenerating power of the Redeemer of humanity, the Prince of Peace, truth and justice and liberty, love and forbearance and brotherliness have already made such gains in the world as to leave no doubt of the course which things are taking. Our prophecy is made ready to our hand, and we run no risks in uttering it. The immediate future may not be all peace, but even this will be largely so. Of the particular events to occur during the coming year or years, we know nothing. That they will be increasingly good and beneficent we are sure.

The friends of peace should, therefore, open their work for 1894 with increased energy and devotion and confidence. We are more numerous than formerly. Our hundreds have become thousands. The encouragement of increased numbers is always great. The lack of adequate financial resources should not be allowed to check too much our ardor. Heart and soul, thought and speech are worth more than money, and these can be constantly used in the circle in which each one moves. People are more ready everywhere than in former years to listen to peace

doctrine. It is not unusual now to find in unexpected places men who, entirely alone, have thought out this problem and become strong peace men.

We have reached the day of practical measures for the prevention of war, and as a consequence peace sentiment is rapidly massing itself. Once convinced that war is unnecessary for settling differences, or for maintaining the national dignity, men will not be long in setting the seal of their inmost condemnation upon its inherent absurdity and essential immorality.

Some of the truest and strongest friends of peace in different countries have recently been taken from us. It seems at first that we can poorly spare them just now, but their splendid example will live and from the ranks of the educated young men who are now turning their attention to the movement for peace the cause will receive worthy champions for the future.

The future is ours. Let us go to meet it with brave and trustful hearts.

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's message was given to Congress on the 4th of December. It disappointed the country in not saying as startling things about Hawaii as was expected. It is a long document, touching nearly all of the internal and external relations of the Government, but with the growth of the country and the great number of affairs with which the Government has to deal a President's message can no longer be short if it is to be of any value. About one-third of the present message is devoted to our foreign relations, of which the President says that while they "have not at all times during the past year been entirely free from perplexity, no embarrassing situation remains that will not yield to the spirit of fairness and love of justice which, joined with consistent firmness, characterize a truly American foreign policy."

We quote with great pleasure the entire passage referring to the

#### "PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION."

"By a concurrent resolution, passed by the Senate February 14, 1890, and by the House on the 3d of April following, the President was requested 'to invite, from time to time, as fit occasions may arise, negotiations with any government with which the United States has, or may have, diplomatic relations, to the end that any differences or disputes arising between the two governments, which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency, may be referred to arbitration and be peaceably adjusted by such means.'"

"April 18, 1890, the International American Conference of Washington, by resolution, expressed the wish that all controversies between the republics of America and the nations of Europe might be settled by arbitration, and recommended that the Government of each nation represented in that Conference should communicate this wish to all friendly powers.

"A favorable response has been received from Great Britain in the shape of a resolution adopted by Parliament June 16th last, cordially sympathizing with the purpose in view and expressing the hope that Her Majesty's Government will lend ready coöperation to the Government of the United States upon the basis of the concurrent resolution above quoted.

"It affords me signal pleasure to lay this Parliamentary resolution before Congress and to express my sincere gratification that the sentiment of two great and kindred nations is thus authoritatively manifested in favor of the rational and peaceable settlement of international quarrels by honorable resort to arbitration."

This is, in many respects, the most important paragraph in the whole message, and yet strangely enough, scarcely a word of attention has been given to it by the journals of the country. But its presence in the message marks a distinct and important epoch in the history of State documents, and its fruit will not be long in appearing. At first we were inclined to wish that the President had gone further and made some recommendation, but perhaps it is best as it is, for it carries with it clearly his wish. The responsibility for the next step in this movement now rests on Congress, and we cannot doubt that the necessary authority will soon be conferred upon the President to open negotiations for such a permanent treaty of arbitration between England and this country as the people of both nations are really demanding.

In the case of the trouble in Brazil the President says that the position of our Government thus far has been that of an attentive but impartial observer of the unfortunate conflict, nothing having been done to give sanction to the insurrection.

The Claims Commission provided for in the Convention between this country and Chile has been appointed, the President of the Swiss Republic having been asked to name the third member, on whom the two countries failed to agree. The demand of the Chilean Government that the United States Minister in that country should not give the right of asylum to persons having been engaged in insurrection has been acceded to.

A résumé is given of the proceedings leading up to the decision of the Supreme Court, May 15, 1893, that the Geary Chinese Exclusion Law is constitutional. The President hopes that the recent amendment of the law may result in securing the registration of the Chinese, so that it may not be necessary to deport them, but he has no word of disapproval for the essential injustice of the law, however he may feel in his heart about it.

He recommends that an act be passed prohibiting the sale of arms and intoxicants to the natives in that portion of the Congo State regulated by our citizens, in accordance with the agreement made by the United States in article twelve of the general act of Brussels of July 2, 1890. This wise recommendation ought to be carried out at once,

The action of Costa Rica in voluntarily surrendering, on evidence, a noted criminal is commended, and treaties of reciprocal extradition are urged with all the nations with which we have not already such. The friendly desire of the United States that the boundary dispute between Costa Rica and Colombia may be settled by arbitration has been expressed by the President to the two governments.

Our relations with France and Germany are cordial and satisfactory. There is friendliness with Great Britain, with whose Government negotiations are in progress for the concurrent action of both Governments in rendering the regulations established by the Behring Sea tribunal effective. The Welland canal trouble has been satisfactorily settled.

Hayti has paid a suitable indemnity for the prolonged imprisonment of an American citizen on an unfounded charge of smuggling. The Government of Honduras has expressed sincere regret for the illegal conduct of its military officers in firing upon an American mail steamer. Our relations with Mexico are close and friendly. The relocating of the boundaries between the two countries is nearly complete. The American Minister in Nicaragua has aided in the peaceful adjustment of the controversy there. The President has a good word for the Nicaragua canal. Extradition treaties have been made with Norway and Russia. This Government has suggested to the French Government its earnest concern lest territorial impairment of Liberia should take place.

The President thinks that the course of things in Samoa since the Berlin treaty of four years ago signally illustrated the impolicy of entangling alliances with foreign powers, and in this he is clearly right. A respectful but earnest note has been sent to the Spanish Government insisting on the prompt fulfilment of the pledges of indemnity made by that country in 1886. The adjustment of difficulties with Venezuela is in progress.

Allusion is made to the outrages committed on the missionaries in Armenia and to the prompt action of the Government in securing from the Porte reparation therefor.

The part of the Message relating to Hawaii was in entire harmony with the President's previously expressed judgment and course of action, which has been commented on in these columns.

Looking at the contents of the Message as a whole, one cannot help feeling a sense of just pride at the pacific and honorable conduct of our Government in its dealings with foreign countries.

At home, there have been no Indian outbreaks and the army has not been called into service during the year. The nonsense of the erection of coast defences is reported as still going on. The President distinctly favors the policy of building up what he calls a thorough and efficient

navy, but doubts whether, considering the present state of our finances and the unfinished condition of so many vessels already in construction, any new work should be undertaken.

#### FRANCE AND GERMANY.

We publish on another page in our Correspondence a letter from Professor C. A. Eggert of Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, which we are sure all our readers will be glad to see, whether they agree with its contents or not. The writer of the letter has been much in France and speaks from a personal acquaintance with the country, though we fear he has failed to see the deepest and most significant things in modern France. The question raised by the present condition of Europe is one of such magnitude and many-sidedness that we are glad to have opportunities of thinking it over anew and of restating it.

We are sure that Professor Eggert wrongly interprets the spirit of the general press of this country when he states that it shows partiality to France as against Germany. Our own reading, which is fairly extensive on this special line, leads us to the opinion that both nations in their rivalry of armaments are equally condemned by the reputable journals of this country, certain papers of course excepted which take sides and others which ignore the subject. The condemnation of France, though quite as severe, has been, it is true, less frequent for two or three years past than that of Germany, for the reason that the peculiar actions of the German Emperor and the movements of the Socialists, in a word, the great strife between the people and the military classes have brought that country prominently before the public. The press of this country, though naturally sympathizing with the republican institutions of France, looks upon her excessive armament as just as foolish and uncalled for as that of Germany, and even more out of harmony with her form of government. This is the position of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* with regard to every nation of Europe. All these vast military preparations grow out of largely groundless fear and jealousy and suspicion and false ideas of national greatness and security, and hence they are wrong, every one of them. Their existence is the gigantic crime of Europe.

Professor Eggert's position that French military vanity (he says also greed of land, which we think much less true) has been the cause of her wars in the past, is, we are sorry to have to say, too nearly literally correct. Her historic sin has been that of the love of fighting pure and simple, just as England's has been that of territorial aggrandizement. We have often heard intelligent Frenchmen say virtually the same thing. It is not rare in recent years to see in the journals of Paris the course of Napoleon I. severely condemned as one of the greatest injury to France herself. An intelligent and patriotic

Frenchman told the writer that the Napoleonic wars had cost France three invasions. That France, or rather the Imperial Court, was, in the main, responsible for the last war, there is no question. She freely confesses it herself. But it is just as true that more than one man in Germany had long been preparing for a war with France and took advantage of circumstances to hasten the crisis.

In the twenty-two years since that fateful war there has been a great change in the spirit of the French people. There is much less desire for glory by arms than formerly, even among the men who lead the nation. France, though still capable of being inflamed and carried away by excitement, in accordance with her hereditary character, would not tolerate another Napoleon I. She has come to realize, more fully than many believe, the folly as well as the danger of living by war and for war. There is not a shadow of doubt that such a change of sentiment has really taken place among the French people, though there may be many superficial reasons for believing the contrary. The treatment of General Dodds at Marseilles when he came back from the Dahomey campaign is a striking proof of this statement. Such a thing could not have occurred twenty years ago. There is a new France rapidly growing up to cast off the old one. It would be a sorry prospect for humanity, if we must believe that nations must always remain the stupid and cruel things they have been in the past.

We are glad to believe with Mr. Eggert in the peace-loving character of the German people, as he does, doubtless, with us in that of the people of France, at the present time, that is. One cannot, however, read the literature and history of Germany and travel in it and see its monuments without feeling that it has been as essentially military in the past as France. Its military spirit has been slower to act, more calm and stately, less meddlesome, less passionate and freer of frenzy, but it has been deep-seated and constant, moving coolly and doggedly to the accomplishment of its ends. For this very reason it will be no less difficult to eradicate than the militarism of France. But the tide has changed in Germany as in France. The movement against further military development there is for the most part among the people, and it will not be long till it will make itself irresistibly felt by the ruling classes. The hope of Europe lies in the people. The people of France as well as of Germany are now real lovers of peace. Neither is much behind the other, as their meetings in friendly congresses prove. They are still afflicted with much deep-seated and unreasonable distrust of each other, but this is beginning slowly and surely to break away. Every people in Europe is likewise peace-loving, and we have little doubt that if the question of general disarmament, free from entanglement with other questions, were submitted to-morrow to a direct vote of the peoples themselves, militarism would be doomed.